

# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

**INSIDE**Chinese communities around world  
discussed at Malaysia conference

— PAGES 8-10

VOL. 77/NO. 32 SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

## Judge orders NY to reform stop and frisk

BY DOUG NELSON

NEW YORK — U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled in a class-action suit Aug. 12 that the New York City Police Department's stop-and-frisk tactics are unconstitutional and racially discriminatory and ordered a series of reforms aimed at moderating what she called a "proactive policing tool" — stopping working people on the street without cause.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly countered by appealing to working people to support current policing methods they argue have brought the rate of violent crime in the city to an all-time low. Their message was foremost aimed at workers who are Black and live in neighborhoods with the highest levels of gang activity, shootings and other predatory violence.

Based on personal stories of 12 plaintiffs, testimony from cops on both sides and "expert" analysts of police data, the judge ruled that the stop-and-frisk practices violate Fourth Amendment protections from unreasonable search and seizure and

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## Public outcry, protests force arrest of killer cop in Toronto



Protesters march to Metropolitan Toronto Police Headquarters Aug. 13 demanding arrest and prosecution of cop James Forcillo, who fatally shot Sammy Yatim nine times July 27.

BY FÉLIX VINCENT ARDEA AND JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Constable James Forcillo, the cop who killed 18-year-old Sammy Yatim July 27, was charged with second-degree murder Aug. 19 amid public outrage and street demonstrations.

Forcillo fatally shot Yatim on a Toronto Transit Commission streetcar. According to witnesses, Yatim quickly found himself alone in the

## Egypt workers press fight for wages, rights, unions

Undeterred after army crackdown on Islamists



Textile workers in Mahalla, Egypt, at sit-down protest Aug. 26 demand payment of promised bonus. "Our revolution is for freedom against hunger, poverty, and nepotism," they chanted.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Less than a week after the Egyptian army's bloody clash with the Muslim Brotherhood, hundreds of workers at the government-owned Weaving and Textile Company in Mahalla launched another strike Aug. 26, demanding payment of a promised bonus and the firing of a hated top manager — one

of many signs that working people in Egypt remain determined to fight for their interests.

President Mohammed Morsi, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, was ousted by the military July 3 after tens of millions took to the streets across the country demanding his resignation. Some 1,000 Morsi supporters were killed and thousands injured in the military's heavy-handed response to the Brotherhood's attempts to restore the Islamists' hold on the

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## US hands off Syria!

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people here in the U.S. and worldwide to join in demanding that Washington and its imperialist allies keep their blood-stained hands off Syria.

Government officials and other voices for the capitalist rulers in Washington, London, Paris and elsewhere are trying to build a bandwagon to launch a military assault against the regime of

**STATEMENT BY DAN FEIN,  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY  
NY MAYORAL CANDIDATE**

— August 29

Bashar al-Assad. Such an attack would be a blow to the interests of the working class and toilers — in Syria, throughout the region, and in the U.S. and the world over.

As a pretext to rain down missiles on Syria, the U.S. rulers are shedding crocodile tears over the slaughter of hundreds of civilians in an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs that Washington says was carried out by Assad's armed forces. Assad is already responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrians during the civil war and before; it's certainly not above that tyrannical regime to use chemical weapons.

Whatever the facts, however, this latest massacre is simply being grabbed

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## Door to door: Australian workers sign to put communists on ballot

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

SYDNEY — Campaigning door to door in workers' neighborhoods and at political events here, supporters of Ron Poulsen, a factory worker and Communist League candidate for the federal senate from New South Wales, collected in less than two weeks well over the required 100 signatures to place him on the ballot in the Sept. 7 national elections.

After a campaign team knocked on his door, Stephen Roach, 41, a casual (temporary) forklift driver with a transport company, signed for Poulsen. He expressed concern at the growth of casual work and "the number of agencies" who profit from pushing workers into temporary jobs. Roach saw this as the reason "hourly wages are going down, destroying any stability for workers."

The communist candidate explained  
Continued on page 3

## Oakland airport fast-food workers win reinstatement of union backers

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Concession workers at Subway and Jamba Juice at the Oakland International Airport won reinstatement of three coworkers who were fired for taking part in a union struggle for better working conditions.

"The fight and actions we've had

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# Support for Obama was focus of event marking 1963 march

BY SETH GALINSKY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tens of thousands turned out here Aug. 24 on the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

In 1963 more than 200,000 marched as the fight against Jim Crow segregation and racism was advancing in battles across the South and spreading into the North.

This year's event was organized by National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King III, and endorsed by scores of Black and civil rights groups and trade unions.

The March for Jobs and Freedom anniversary was organized above all as a celebration of the Barack Obama presidency. In midst of the highest unemployment facing workers in decades — hitting disproportionately at workers who are Black — his administration has done nothing to put any of the millions of jobless to work. And attorney General Eric Holder, who spoke at the rally, has led the government's attacks on political rights.

The event included many workers looking to discuss what is happening today — from the economic crisis and the recent gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court to the anger many feel at the fact that George Zimmerman got off scot-free for the vigilante killing of Trayvon Martin.

Discussions on these questions swirled on the hundreds of buses to the rally and where workers gathered on lawn chairs and blankets that dotted the area around the National Mall.

Overwhelmingly Black in composi-

tion, most of those attending were workers, including substantial union contingents. But there was also many lawyers, professors and other professional and middle-class people, a section of the Black community that has expanded substantially in the decades since the 1963 march.

In addition to Sharpton, King, and Holder, speakers included Congressman John Lewis, one of the 1963 speakers; NAACP President Ben Jealous; Trayvon Martin's mother Sybrina Fulton; and several union officials.

Rally participants were looking to discuss what can be done to fight to change the deteriorating economic conditions workers face today, which for many is worse than in 1963.

"I came because we need to stay strong and fight for our rights," said Eric Timmons, 31, a member of the United Auto Workers union in Detroit. Timmons said that under the two-tier wages imposed where he works, he gets about half the pay of coworkers with more seniority on the first tier.

Rachel Hampton, 36, a nursing assistant, came from Rutherford County, N.C., with the local chapter of the NAACP. Hampton said she is working three different jobs, all at minimum wage, to make ends meet. Chapter secretary treasurer Darwin Little joined in the discussion. "We need to pull together, Black and white, to see more jobs created with better wages," he said.

Carolyn Taylor-Chester, 49, came to the action with Service Employees International Union Local 1199 from Baltimore. "So many of us are working



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Tens of thousands turned out for Aug. 24 event marking 1963 March on Washington.

in health care and we can't even afford it ourselves," she said.

"Trayvon is on my mind," Connie Henderson, 60, a retired autoworker from Detroit, told the *Militant*. "I feel like it was a lynching."

Theresa Green, a member of Transport Workers Local 100, said the rally "was more like a gathering. There are so many important issues we face. We really needed a protest."

"The tables were a real magnet for hundreds of workers looking for literature on what we face today," said Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, who helped staff one of the two big literature displays for the *Militant* and Pathfinder books at the Aug. 24 event. Overall, 101 subscriptions and 165 books on revolutionary working-class politics were sold.

## 1963 march registered advance in proletarian battle for Black rights

### Turnout Shows Negroes Ready for Action

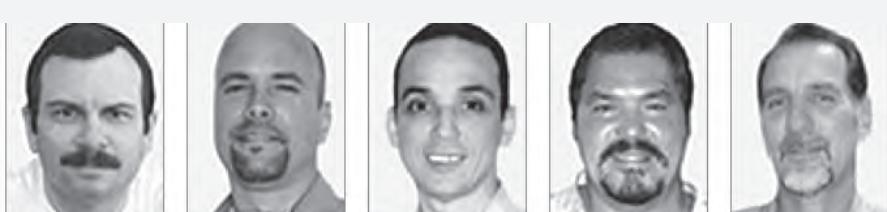
BY GEORGE LAVAN

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 29 — The massiveness — a quarter of a million people is the best estimate — was the outstanding feature of yesterday's March for Jobs and Freedom. This was also the most *important* thing about the march. For both friend and foe were carefully watching to see in what numbers Negroes would come out. To the politicians, the top union brass, the liberals, the fence-sitters and to the white supremacists — indeed to all social and political realists, the march's size would be a gauge of whether the Freedom Now fight was still in its upsurge or beginning to subside.

The Negro people were watching  
**Continued on page 11**

# THE MILITANT

## Free the Cuban Five!



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, René González

**The 'Militant' champions the international fight to free these five exemplary working-class fighters and products of the revolution they defend. Join Sept. 12 actions to protest their frame-up and demand their freedom. See ad on page 7.**

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

# 'Important there's a paper that supports struggles of workers'

BY JOHN STUDER

Across the U.S. and in a number of other countries around the world, supporters of the *Militant* and campaigners for candidates of the Socialist Workers Party and sister Communist Leagues are knocking on workers' doors, selling introductory subscriptions and winning long-term renewals.

"If you have a group of workers together you have something to stand on. By yourself you are just a target," retired worker Donald Lewellen told Clay Dennison in Burlington, Wash., while they were discussing the fight by berry pickers at Sakuma Brothers Farms in the area, most of whom are immigrants from Mexico.

"Not only Sakuma Farms, but anywhere there are immigrant workers it seems like they just use up their talents," said Lewellen, who previously worked in a chicken plant, as he signed up for a subscription. "Sakuma Farms is trying to cut corners and take food off the workers' table."

"We have been visiting subscribers whose subscriptions have expired or are about to expire," *Militant* supporter Olof Andra Proppé wrote from London. "We go door to door in the same areas to sell new subscriptions. Over the past week, five subscribers have renewed and 10 new subscriptions have been sold."

"People get so absorbed in their own daily struggles to survive," Adamo Giraldo told John Benson, SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta, when he and campaign supporters knocked on his door in Norcross, Ga., Aug. 17. "So it's important there's a paper that explains what's happening in the world and sup-

ports struggles of working people."

Giraldo, who went back to school to try and pick up a trade after being laid off, renewed his subscription and purchased a copy of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, one of nine books offered at special reduced prices with a subscription (see ad on this page).

"I would like to let you know that I am a big fan of your newsweekly, the *Militant*," a worker behind bars in San Diego wrote Aug. 19. "There is not much to look forward to in prison and I always anxiously await your paper."

In recent years the number of subscribers has steadily grown in U.S. prisons, where the workers' paper gets passed around and discussed. To help workers behind bars receive the socialist press at the reduced price of \$6 for six months, or in some cases free of charge, send a check or money order to the *Militant* address listed on page 2, earmarked "Prisoners Fund."

To get or renew your subscription — or to join efforts to expand the readership of the working-class press — contact distributors in your area (listed on page 10) or the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

Don't miss a single issue!

## Colombia peasants, workers strike over conditions



Several hundred thousand peasants, truck drivers, artisanal miners and others went on strike in 19 provinces in Colombia Aug. 19. More than 15,000 police tried to dismantle 37 roadblocks set up by farmers and more than 175 protesters have been arrested. Above, march in Tunja supporting strike.

Farmers are demanding government price supports and lower prices for agricultural supplies. "Government subsidies go to the big land owners," Urbano García, an organizer with Fensuagro, the farmer and farmworkers union, said by phone from Magdalena Aug. 23. "But for peasants, the cost of production is often greater than the price they receive."

Pedro Aguilar, president of the Truckers Association of Colombia, told the *Militant* that drivers are demanding that the price of gas be lowered from \$4.50 a gallon to \$1 a gallon. "We also want the companies that contract us to pay a minimum per mile to cover truck maintenance," Aguilar said. "Right now many of us don't even earn enough to eat."

Artisanal miners are protesting government bans on small-scale mining and confiscation of their equipment. "The government favors the transnational mining companies," Aydeé Moreno, human rights director for Fensuagro, said from Bogotá.

—SETH GALINSKY

## Workers sign to put Australia communist on ballot

Continued from front page

his campaign's call "for a mass movement, including the unions, to fight for a government-funded program of needed public works to provide jobs for all. This fight should also demand an increase in the minimum wage to

improve the conditions of the lowest-paid workers — casual and youth, female and immigrant — and help unify the working class." "Our election campaign is centered on discussing the impact of the growing global capitalist crisis, increasingly evident

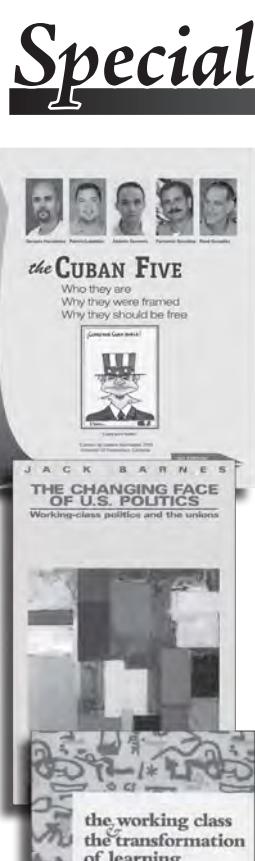
now in Australia, on the jobs and livelihoods of working people," Poulsen told the *Militant*.

The elections have been marked by competition between the main bourgeois parties to see who can propose harsher measures to close the door on so-called "illegal" asylum-seekers coming to Australia by boat.

Liberal opposition leader Anthony Abbott declared the issue a "national emergency." In response, Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced refugees without papers would no longer be allowed to settle in the country.

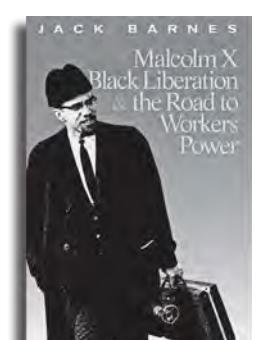
"These refugees are people too," Roach said as he signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*. "They have the right to escape whatever horrible conditions they are leaving behind."

At an Aug. 4 meeting in Sydney celebrating 60 years of the Cuban Revolution, Poulsen spoke on the campaign to free the Cuban Five, political prisoners held by Washington since 1998, and on Cuba's participation from 1975 to 1991 in an internationalist mission that helped drive invading white supremacist South African forces out of Angola. Three of the Five participated in the Angola campaign. Fifty of those at the meeting signed to help get the communist candidate on the ballot.



### The Cuban Five

Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free  
*from pages of the 'Militant'*  
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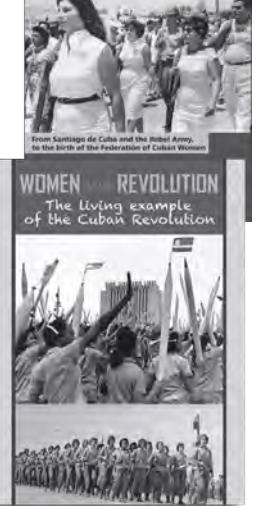
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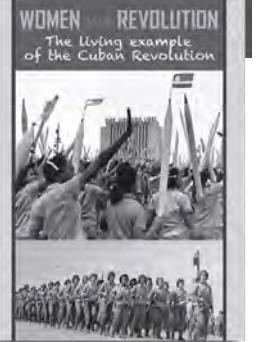
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## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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Montreal  
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See distributors  
on page 10

# Egypt workers press fights

Continued from front page

reins of government. Top leaders of the Brotherhood have been jailed.

Much of the U.S. press — from major bourgeois dailies to most radical liberal publications that claim to speak in the interests of working people — wrung their hands over the ouster of the elected president as a blow to “democracy” and called for his restoration or reconciliation with the severely weakened Brotherhood.

The *New York Times*, noting the imposition of martial law and curfews by the interim government and the appointment of military officers as governors in many provinces, warned that a crackdown on workers and their organizations would swiftly follow the actions against the Brotherhood.

But one doesn't so easily follow the other.

On one hand is a sectarian bourgeois Islamist movement that miscalculated its real power. On the other are millions of toilers who have carved out political space and gained confidence in struggles over the last several years against the repressive Hosni Mubarak regime, the military junta that replaced him, and the Morsi government, backed by Brotherhood street thugs, that followed. Having dispatched its main capitalist rival, the army-connected bourgeoisie in Egypt now faces a more complex challenge — the unfolding class struggle and deepening crisis of capitalism.

Workers, small farmers and Egyptians from all walks of life — including many who voted for Morsi in 2012 following the popular overthrow of Mubarak in February 2011 — were fed up with the Muslim Brotherhood government. Not only were working people angry that the Morsi regime fulfilled none of its promises and made them pay dearly for the deepening capitalist economic crisis — with steep price and tax hikes in basic necessities and growing unemployment. But they became increasingly incensed at the creeping assault on basic democratic rights and steps to impose the Brotherhood's sectarian vision of Sunni Islam in public life.

“The Muslim Brotherhood's stubbornness is the central cause of the current crisis,” Kamal Fayoumy, an electrician at the giant Mahalla El Kubra textile mill and central leader of many workers struggles, told the *Militant* by phone. “They have refused to step aside in the face of the people's will.”

The Brotherhood hoped that by provoking the military into attacking them, supporters who died would become “martyrs” and help the group regain support. Preparing for battle at their camp at the Rabaa al-Adawiya, they

set up a kitchen, pharmacy and a field hospital. On Aug. 14 soldiers and cops cleared out the camp using armored vehicles, bulldozers, tear gas and, eventually, live ammunition, killing at least 200 people. According to the Interior Ministry, 43 police and soldiers were also killed in the clash.

Meanwhile, Brotherhood supporters targeted Egypt's Christian Coptic community, which represents about 10 percent of the country's population. According to *Al Ahram* weekly, the Islamists torched at least 50 churches, Christian-owned businesses and schools on Aug. 14 alone.

## People protect Christians

In many cases workers, youth and others who are Muslim joined human chains to protect Christian institutions and homes from reactionary mobs. “The Muslim Brotherhood is trying to cause religious animosity and conflict. But no one must be allowed to divide us,” said Ibrahim Abdel Gawad, president of the Independent Farmers Union in Ismailia. “That is why you see Muslim and Christian youth standing together side by side to protect the churches.”

The Brotherhood's recent actions are no surprise to working people in Egypt. In early December last year, armed Brotherhood thugs attacked demonstrators who were protesting Morsi's proposed constitution that would soon be used to restrict democratic rights, union organization and freedom of worship.

The intimidation didn't succeed in pushing working people back. According to the Cairo-based International Development Centre, there were an average of 1,140 strikes, sit-ins, marches and other workers' actions in June and July leading up to Morsi's overthrow.

Working people organized to protect themselves against stepped-up Islamist thuggery after Morsi's ouster.

In Ismailia, an industrial city along the Suez Canal, “we discussed with the army establishing popular committees, but they rejected the idea,” construction worker Mahmoud Salama, a leader of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions there, said by phone. “So people started on their own to form popular committees to defend themselves from Brotherhood attacks.”

Popular committees were also set up in Mahalla El Kubra, a textile industry center. “Made up of workers, students and residents, they guarded the workers' neighborhoods, and public and private institutions,” Fayoumy said.

But the committees were often not strong enough to prevent non-proletarian elements from undermining their purpose.



Delta Sugar workers protest in Cairo for better wages and job conditions, November 2012. Workers have carved out space in struggle against Hosni Mubarak regime, military junta that replaced him, and government of Mohammad Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Fatma Ramadan, a member of the executive board of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, said from Cairo that now “most of these committees are constituted by thugs or are being used by opportunists.”

On Aug. 18 the government ordered the committees to disband.

## Labor opposes Brotherhood return

Trade union activists and participants in struggles of small farmers who spoke with the *Militant* by phone Aug. 20 and Aug. 21 oppose the Muslim Brotherhood's return to power. While they hold a range of views on the crackdown, they remain confident in their capacities and prospects for future struggle.

“The situation is dangerous,” Salama said. “Roads between towns are not safe. Many workers are not going to work. This creates chaos.” At the same time, he said the curfew is “not dangerous for the rights of workers, who meet during the day anyway, and not at night.”

Fayoumy noted that workers in Mahalla are conducting a petition campaign “demanding that a trade union law legalizing our unions be passed, that free union elections be held, that fired workers be returned to their jobs and for a minimum wage of 2,000 Egyptian pounds a month (\$286) and a maximum wage 20 times that.”

“In Mahalla 10,000 workers have already signed,” he said. “But the state of emergency is making it harder to get around so it has slowed somewhat now.”

“Our struggles have been postponed, that is the price working people are being forced to pay,” Karam Saber, president of the Land Center for Human Rights, said from Cairo. “The farmers' union movement is starting a campaign against debtors prisons, for land distribution and for better loans, but when we go to the Ministry of Agriculture they tell us to wait until the battle with the Muslim Brotherhood is over.”

“This state of emergency will slow the class struggle, because right now the only thing the worker can do is go to work and return home,” said Ramadan.

Mahatab Algilani, a member of Revolutionary Youth who has been active in the protests at Cairo's Tahrir Square, said that “although the state of emergency is against the rights of working people, in the current situation it is justifiable in order to eliminate terror. But we know that the state of emergency could be used against us next.”

“I support the intervention of the army and the arrests of the Muslim Brotherhood people because workers do not have arms at this point,” said Gamal Abu'l Oula, director of the Center for Trade Unions and Workers Services of

fice in Mahalla. “We are for a temporary state of emergency. It will not stand in the way of trade union struggles.”

A strike for higher pay by 2,100 workers at Suez Steel that began in early July ended Aug. 22, according to *Al Ahram*. The paper reported that two strike leaders were released on bail Aug. 13 after fellow workers protested in front of the Suez City courthouse. Police then arrested three more workers Aug. 21-22.

According to the *Times*, the army has sought to pin blame for the strike on the Muslim Brotherhood. But *Al Ahram* notes that a variety of political parties are supporting the workers' fight.

“The Suez governor promised to release our coworkers on Friday,” Walid Hassan told the paper. “If not, workers might go on strike again.”

President Barack Obama said in an Aug. 15 statement that Washington “strongly condemns the steps that have been taken by Egypt's interim government and security forces” and favors “a process of national reconciliation.”

Although Obama cancelled a joint U.S.-Egypt military exercise scheduled for September, Washington maintains \$1.3 billion in annual military aid to Egypt. The aid is crucial to maintaining advanced equipment the military buys from the U.S.

The government of Qatar, the biggest financial backer of the Muslim Brotherhood when Morsi was in power, has continued to send some aid to the Egyptian government.

Four Middle East governments — Saudi Arabia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait — are backing the interim government. The three Arab monarchies — who have long viewed the Brotherhood as a political threat — have put together a \$12 billion aid program. The Israeli government has been lobbying Washington to keep the military aid to Egypt flowing. All four see aiding the new regime as the best road toward establishing capitalist stability and countering the governments of Turkey and Iran, which denounced the overthrow of Morsi as a coup.

Georges Mehrabian and Bashar Abu-Saifan contributed to this article from Beirut, Lebanon.



Muslim Brotherhood backers beat opponent of Mohammed Morsi regime April 19 in Tahrir Square. Islamist group alienated workers with thuggery and capitalist economic measures.

## Eyewitness report: Workers and Farmers in Egypt Fight for Political Space

Speaker: Dan Fein, SWP candidate for NY mayor

Sat., Aug 31, Chicago

6 p.m. dinner - 7:30 p.m. program

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Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum

# Bosses renege on agreements with farmworkers after strike

BY CLAY DENNISON

SEATTLE — “Sakuma is not honoring the agreement,” said farmworker Francisco Eugenio Paz at an informational picket Aug. 20 outside a Seattle grocery store that sells the company’s produce. “We’re going to keep fighting and we are asking people not to buy berries from Sakuma.”

Field workers and supporters carried out similar actions at two other locations in western Washington the same day.

After going on strike two times in July, some 250 members of the farmworkers group *Familias Unidas por la Justicia* (Families United for Justice), reached an agreement with Sakuma Brothers Farms management on wages July 25. But workers say the company stopped honoring the verbal agreement and started to bring in several dozen “guest workers” from Mexico.

After the company refused to pay an agreed-upon price per pound that would guarantee a minimum wage of \$12 an hour, the workers decided to call for a boycott.

The strikes won improvements in living conditions. Filthy and bug-infested mattresses in the labor camps were replaced with new ones. They won back pay for young workers who had been receiving less than the Washington state minimum wage and an agreement to hire family members to weigh the picked produce.

“They negotiated with us, which was a big achievement” and workers are prepared to strike again if they don’t reach an agreement, said Rosalinda Guillen in a published interview. She is a farmworker organizer and director of Bellinham, Wash.-based Community to Community Development, which works with the pickers. Guillen said the company negotiated out of fear that their application for guest workers would be suspended by a strike.

The main demands of the workers are for higher wages, reimbursement of transportation costs for those who migrate annually from California and guarantees that workers who went on strike will be rehired next year without reprisals.

“*Familias Unidas* has not been able to speak with the guest workers, and the company put up a wire fence to separate guest worker housing from the other cabins,” said Paz.

Company security “stay with the guest workers when they go to the store, when they go to buy food,” said Angelica Villa, an organizer with Community to Community. “Those workers don’t know what is going on here.”

After a strike in 2004 workers at Sakuma Farms won a wage increase. But wages were lowered the following year.

The guest workers are employed under government H-2A permits. They cannot change jobs on their own accord and face deportation if fired. Each state sets a prevailing minimum wage for them, which in Washington this year is \$12 per hour.

In 2012 some 85,000 workers received H-2A visas. The immigration bill under consideration in Congress would make it easier for growers to bring in guest workers and increase the annual number to 337,000 workers.

Messages for the workers and financial contributions can be sent to *Familias Unidas por la Justicia* at P.O. Box 1206, Burlington, WA 98233.



Militant/Clay Dennison  
Berry pickers from Sakuma Farms and supporters at Seattle grocery informational picket Aug. 20. Company refuses to pay agreed-upon wages and has brought in “guest workers.”

## Mine Workers ratify contract with Patriot Coal

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHICAGO — Members of the United Mine Workers of America in West Virginia and Kentucky ratified a five-year contract with Patriot Coal Corp. Aug. 16 by 85 percent. The vote by some 1,800 active and laid-off miners followed a recommendation by union officials to approve the pact and takes place amid company bankruptcy proceedings.

In 2007 Peabody Energy spun off its UMWA-organized mines, forming Patriot Coal as a separate company. This allowed Peabody to get out from under union contracts and obligations affecting benefits of thousands of retired miners. The following year, Patriot Coal acquired Magnum, a similar spin-off of Arch Coal. In July 2012 Patriot submitted a series of deep concessions as part of its bankruptcy filing.

Over the past year, miners and their supporters have taken part in numerous demonstrations in coalfield areas and other locations, including Peabody headquarters in St. Louis. They mobilized repeatedly to protest the expected ruling handed down May 29 by bankruptcy Judge Kathy Surratt-States, sanctioning the company’s proposals.

The agreement imposes a \$1 per hour wage cut with a 50 cents annual increase for three years starting in 2015. Judge Surratt-States had approved Patriot’s proposal to cut wages by as much as \$7.53 an hour. Workers’ dental, vision, accident and life insurance plans, as well as job-bidding rights will not be cut as the company initially demanded.

Patriot will eliminate some paid holidays, raise workers’ medical expenses, cut overtime pay, end pensions for new hires, and walk away from obligations to maintain guaranteed health care insurance for some 20,000 retirees.

“We took concessions to help our retired brothers and sisters,” said Darryl Hedgepath, a member of UMWA Local 1793 and scoop operator at the Patriot’s Highland No. 9 Mine in Uniontown, Ky. “On any one day they could still close down the mines.”

The deal keeps the company “on track for reorganization — and not liquidation,” Patriot Coal President and Chief Executive Bennett Hatfield said in a press statement.

Funds for retiree health benefits, which will run out in the coming months, will be shifted to a union-administered

Voluntary Employee Benefit Association fund. Patriot agreed to pay a one-time sum of \$15 million to the VEBA and 20 cents per ton of coal mined. As part of the agreement the union will get a 35 percent stake in the company that it can sell to fund the VEBA if and when Patriot emerges from bankruptcy, which company officials project will happen by the end of the year.

UMWA officials are pursuing a suit against Peabody and Arch for retiree health care funds and lobbying politicians in Congress to press for legislation to transfer federal Coal Act funds slated for reclamation of mined land to the VEBA. “We do not have the resources in the VEBA to guarantee retiree health care forever,” said UMWA President Cecil Roberts in a video address explaining the contract proposal ahead of the vote.

In a reversal of the May 29 court decision, the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Eighth Circuit ruled Aug. 21 that Peabody maintains responsibility for health care benefits for some 3,100 of the retired miners.

The union is organizing the next rally Aug. 27 in front of Peabody Energy headquarters in St. Louis.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 9, 1988

TORONTO — A big victory was won here August 31, when the U.S. State Department finally granted Héctor Marroquín an immigrant visa to the United States.

A national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and a leader of the struggle for immigrant rights, Marroquín was born in Mexico. He has been fighting for 11 years for his right to live and work in the United States. After 11 years of government efforts to deport him because of his communist views, the State Department finally decided to give up and grant the visa he needs to get a green card, which would make him a permanent resident of the United States.

Thousands of working people in the United States have heard about Marroquín’s case and signed petitions, written letters, or joined rallies in his defense.



September 9, 1963

Where does the Negro people’s fight for equality stand now that the March on Washington has passed into history?

The Aug. 28 march, the largest demonstration Washington has ever seen, commanded the attention of the whole country — indeed of the whole world. Between 200,000 and 250,000 people — about 90 percent of them Negro — made a sacrifice of time and money to journey to the nation’s capital on a work day to register by their physical presence the demand for freedom and jobs. This was eloquent and dramatic testimony of their feelings and their potential power.

But despite this tremendous outpouring, nothing concrete appears to have changed in the oppressed position of the Negro people. The March showed the potential political power of the Negro people — but only the potential. That power has not been made actual, nor can it while the Negroes are trapped in the two-party system.



September 10, 1938

CHICAGO — Employers of 70 percent of the drivers in the 11-state North Central Area last week unanimously voted to sign the agreement reached a week ago by committees representing the unions and the operators, thus ratifying a pact that embraces more than 250,000 workers and brings union conditions and wages to a vast number of hitherto unorganized workers.

Only three hours was needed for the employers to decide to accept the terms reached after nearly a year’s negotiations on the part of the union representatives. The contract lays the foundation for other area agreements and ultimately a nationwide contract.

The contract’s wage provisions win substantial improvements for the great majority of drivers. It establishes a series of minimum wages and working conditions. Seniority rights are established for the whole area.

### Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.—\$19



PathfinderPress.com

# 'Release victims of Chicago cop torture and frame-up'

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — Two dozen people picketed the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel Aug. 5 to draw attention to the fight for the release of more than 100 prisoners, all African-American men, who were framed up and incarcerated based on "confessions" extracted through beatings and torture.

Inside, Detective Kenneth Boudreau was speaking on a panel at the 2013 International Gang Specialist Training Conference on "The Chicago Police Department's Gang School Safety Team." Boudreau is among a number of Chicago police officers accused of torturing suspects in custody under the command of Lt. Jon Burge at Police Area 2 in Chicago during the 1970s, 1980s and early '90s. Boudreau has been named in 38 such cases.

In 2006 special prosecutors assigned to probe torture allegations determined there was sufficient evidence to convict Burge and others, but no charges could be brought because the federal five-year statute of limitations for the crime had passed. Burge, however, was convicted in June 2010 on federal charges of perjury and obstruction of justice for lying in a civil lawsuit about the torture. In January 2011 he was sentenced to four and a half years in prison.

"Why should my son be in jail while Boudreau still walks the streets?" said Jeanette Plummer, speaking through a megaphone to picket line participants and passersby. "My son was 15 years old when Boudreau tortured him. What Boudreau did was criminal."

## Calif. inmates press hunger strike in fight against long-term isolation

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES — Some 45 days into a hunger strike that began July 8 California prison authorities have yet to negotiate with prisoners, whose fight has drawn attention to the practice of long-term solitary confinement and other inhumane conditions.

An official with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's media department said 80 prisoners are on strike, 45 of whom have not eaten in 45 days. Supporters of the strikers say the number is higher. The action began with some 30,000 inmates refusing meals.

"My understanding is that for standing up and fighting to better their situation hunger strikers like my son are getting more time in the SHU," said Bertha Nava, "in some cases another 120 days."

Prisoners in Pelican Bay's SHUs initiated the first round of hunger strike protests two years ago. Protest organizers say they resumed the strike July 8 because prison officials had refused to carry out promises to meet prisoners' demands — including abolition of a snitch system that puts inmates accused of gang affiliation in long-term isolation until they finger others, release of those in SHU isolation for more than 10 years and a weekly phone call.

"My brother Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa has spent 29 years in the SHU at Pelican Bay," Marie Levin said in a phone interview from Oakland. "He's past 43 days on the hunger strike. I don't want my

Plummer's son Johnnie was arrested in August 1991 and interrogated by Boudreau and other detectives about a murder he insists he had nothing to do with. He was allegedly threatened and beaten by officers Michael Kill and Boudreau until he provided self-incriminating statements and was subsequently sentenced to 50 years in prison. He is a named plaintiff in a class-action petition filed last November seeking new hearings for the more than 100 still-incarcerated victims.

"My son, Marcus Wiggins, was 13 years old when he was tortured by Boudreau and other officers into making a false confession," said Caroline Johnson. "How can a man who tortured children be asked to speak about children's safety? Boudreau and all those who did what he did should be in jail."

## Report exposes sterilization of women prisoners

BY SUSAN LAMONT

Women in California's prison system were improperly sterilized in recent years under coerced consent and false claims of medical necessity, according to a July 7 report by the Center for Investigative Reporting. Prison authorities also broke the law by circumventing required state approval.

During a five-year period ending in 2010, at least 148 pregnant women in the California Institution for Women in Corona and the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla were pressed into agreeing to have their tubes tied, the re-

porter says.

For decades federal law has prohibited use of federal funds for sterilizations of institutionalized individuals, a protection won through fights against "eugenics" sterilization programs targeting working people.

The operations were performed using state funds, but were still illegal because they were done without authorization from state medical review committees.

Prison authorities claim they were unaware of the requirement, which was made state law in 1994.

In March 2012 the prisoners' rights group Justice Now submitted testimony to the California Senate budget subcommittee related to a range of abuses of inmates in California women's prisons, including illegal sterilizations. "Federal and state laws," the group testified, "prohibit sterilization in coercive environments and specifically prohibit elective sterilization in prisons, making clear that voluntary, informed consent cannot be procured in the prison environment."

In addition to the 148 women given tubal ligations, 10 other women told Justice Now that they were improperly sterilized by other methods. Among them was Kelli Thomas, who told the *Los Angeles Times* that she went into surgery at Valley State for a biopsy and to remove two cysts. She gave the doctor permission to remove her ovaries if cancer was found. Although no cancer was present, her ovaries were taken out.

Crystal Nguyen, 28, a former Valley State inmate who worked in the prison's



Protest in Chicago Aug. 5 demands new trial for more than 100 prisoners convicted on basis of "confessions" extracted through police torture in Chicago's southern police districts. From left, Wallace Bradley, John Hawkins, Elliot Zinger and Jeanette Plummer with picture of her son.

Joining Plummer and Johnson in speaking at the picket were cop torture victim Mark Clements, who won release after serving 28 years in prison; Wallace Bradley, a leader of the fight to win release of torture survivors; Annabel Perez, mother of Jaime Haude, who was tortured by Chicago police; Ted Pearson of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; attorney Elliot Zinger; and John Hawkins of the Socialist Workers Party.

## For further reading ...

infirmary in 2007, told the Center for Investigative Reporting that she often overheard medical staff asking inmates who had served multiple prison terms to agree to be sterilized. "I was like, 'Oh my God, that's not right,'" Nguyen said. "Do they think they're animals, and they don't want them to breed anymore?"

In an interview with CIR, Dr. James Heinrich, Valley State Prison's gynecologist, said he saw the sterilizations as an important service for poor women who faced potential health risks.

But Heinrich's comments on the \$147,460 in state funds paid for the operations betray an attitude of contempt for working-class women. "Over a 10-year period, that isn't a huge amount of money," he said, "compared to what you save in welfare paying for these unwanted children — as they procreate more."

Medical care at the state's 33 prisons has been under the California Prison Health Care Receivership Corp. since 2006, after a U.S. district judge ruled that the system's health care was so poor that it violated constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina state legislature agreed July 25, after 10 years of debate, to award some \$50,000 to each victim of that state's involuntary sterilization program, under which more than 7,000 people deemed "feeble-minded," "promiscuous," or in other ways "unfit" were sterilized between 1929 and 1974.

Thirty-three states had similar "eugenics" programs during much of the 20th century.



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... "Better sex offenders programs, better substance abuse programs, better job training programs for prisoners — these reforms are all designed to do the same thing as gangs in the prison yard and corruption in the cell blocks. Everything is organized to turn cons against one another, to reinforce the worst, dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to differentiate the incarcerated. The fight of the working class is the opposite." ...

—Jack Barnes from Capitalism's World Disorder

# Airport workers reinstated

Continued from front page

helped a lot to get this victory," Hakima Arhab told the *Militant* at an Aug. 23 protest of concession workers outside an airport terminal here.

Subway management fired Arhab last year after she began to work with UNITE HERE Local 2850 as part of a fight around overtime pay, vacation and sick days, breaks and work schedules.

"They did not want to rehire me because they know I'll continue to fight against company abuses," Arhab said. "They offered me money. But I said no. I want my job back."

The majority of concession workers at the airport here are members of Local 2850 and employed directly by HMS Host, which operates food service at

airports and travel plazas. Workers at Subway, Jamba Juice, Burger King and other food concessions are employed directly by those companies, which operate under contracts with HMS. The subcontract outlets are nonunion and workers say bosses are fighting hard to keep it that way.

Joining the Aug. 23 picket were workers facing a wage freeze, cuts in health care and pensions and an end to paid lunch breaks demanded by HMS Host.

"They want new hires to be paid less, with no possibility of catching up with other workers," said Monica Guzman, who has worked for HMS Host for 21 years. "Newly hired workers are joining the contract fight when they learn what the company is pressing," she said.



Militant/Betsey Stone

Workers celebrate on picket line with Hakima Arhab, far left, after she won back her job at Oakland airport Subway restaurant. Workers at Subway, Jamba Juice and other airport concessions run by contractor HMS Host are fighting for higher wages and other demands.

## Judge orders New York officials to reform stop and frisk

Continued from front page

14th Amendment protection from denial of equal protection of the law. She said top city and police officials acted with "deliberate indifference" to the rights of New York residents.

Based on the NYPD's own figures, Scheindlin said, stops and frisks have been routinely carried out without the "reasonable suspicion" required by law. Among the examples she cited was the statistic that 42 percent of the 4.4 million reported police stops between 2004 and 2012 were carried out solely on the vague pretext of "furtive movement."

The NYPD's practices amount to racial profiling, the judge said, because they disproportionately target Black and Latino men.

According to police records, 52 percent of those stopped in recent years were Black, more than double their representation in the city's population. Blacks and Hispanics were also disproportionately arrested as compared to Caucasians when stopped on suspicion of the same crime, and were disproportionately subject to physical force. About 6 percent of stops result in arrest.

According to police figures, the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn has both the highest rate of violent crime and the highest rate of stop and frisk. The total number of stops last year represented 25 percent of the neighborhood's population.

"They stopped my 14-year-old son three times," Diane Richmond 34, a retail store worker, told the *Militant*. "I don't like it. He's only 14. Three times. Come on! That's like profiling him. I think stop and frisk is overdone."

"Stop and frisk is a good idea," said Michael Best, 26, also of Brownsville. "I was stopped once. They said I fit a description, and I didn't like it. But it cleans up the area and makes it a safer place to live."

"It's good and bad. That's just what it is," said Devon White, 28, a construction worker. "But I should be able to walk the streets. Instead people stay in the house because they don't want to be harassed by cops. They got to do their job. But it's the way they do it."

"Unmarked cops should be banned from doing stops," added White, who said plainclothes cops recently jumped out of an unmarked car and went through his pockets without any explanation.

"I'm for stop and frisk by all means," said building super Harold Johnson, 47. "We got to stop the guns. These young

guys don't know how to shoot, they just shoot any which way. But some of the cops are just hostile — and then when you respond, you get set on."

East Harlem, a largely working-class area that is more than half Hispanic with a substantial Black population, is another stop-and-frisk hot spot.

"The cops stopped and beat me up right here four years ago, a couple of people taped it," said Darrin Sax, 45, in East Harlem. He worked as a porter, but is now on disability. "I was cited for resisting arrest. If I was doing something wrong, that's one thing. But the cops shouldn't be doing this."

"Another day I was going to see a friend and the cops stopped me for trespassing," said Sax, who is African-American. "How can you be trespassing when you live right across the street?"

"I like stop and frisk," said Lejuan Gabbidon, 24, who added that he was most recently stopped a week ago when cops said he fit the description of someone with a gun. "But if we keep stop and frisk, cops should be more polite — no staring at civilians because a lot of people in the neighborhood don't like cops. Cops should be calmer."

According to police records, more than half of stops are followed by a frisk. Hundreds of guns are seized as a result of the sweeping, arbitrary searches — 729 in the course of 533,000 stops in 2012.

### Stop and frisk not ending

While making clear she was "not ordering an end to the practice of stop and frisk," Judge Scheindlin appointed an "independent monitor" and a "facilitator" to oversee the NYPD's compliance with policies and training reforms. She said police should have to report details to justify each stop and provide those stopped with a copy. She ordered a one-year pilot project of police body-worn cameras in the precinct with the most recorded stops in each borough.

If the NYPD is forced to change its methods "there is no question about it, violent crime will go up," warned Police Commissioner Ray Kelly on "Meet the Press" Aug. 18. "The stark reality is that violence is happening disproportionately in minority communities, and that, unfortunately, is in big cities throughout America."

The number of murders in New York City fell from a high of more than 2,200 in 1990 to under 500 in recent years — 419 last year. It dropped sharply to less than 1,600 by the time Rudy Giuliani

was elected mayor in 1994 and continued to fall during his administration, which was marked by more aggressive police tactics. The fall in murders, assaults and robberies coincided with a general fall across the U.S., but was particularly sharp in New York. By comparison, the murder rate last year in Chicago was nearly four times that of New York. In Detroit it was nine times.

### 'Broken windows' policy

Under Giuliani, the NYPD grew from 28,000 to 40,000 as he flooded working-class neighborhoods with cops. Under a new "broken windows" policy, cops began making arrests for minor law infractions, like spraying graffiti or panhandling that had previously been ignored. The policy was based on the theory that sending swarms of cops to stop such "quality of life" crimes would bring down the rates of murder, burglary and other major felonies.

It was also under Giuliani that cops began the systematic practice of stopping and frisking working people.

Stop and frisk tactics became more aggressive under Bloomberg, who was elected mayor in 2002. The number of stops, according to police records, more than doubled between 2002 and 2011 before declining slightly in 2012 following protests, lawsuits and

stepped-up media attention. During Bloomberg's three terms, the murder rate has declined slightly.

"Unlike many cities, where wealthy areas get special treatment, the NYPD targets its manpower to the areas that suffer the highest crime levels," wrote Bloomberg in an opinion piece run in the *Washington Post*. Opponents of stop and frisk argue that the stops don't reflect the city's overall census numbers, he said. "By that flawed logic, our police officers would stop women as often as men and senior citizens as often as young people. ... The absurd result of such a strategy would be far more crimes committed against black and Latino New Yorkers. When it comes to policing, political correctness is deadly."

The issue has become a focus of the 2013 mayoral election, with the front-running Democratic Party candidates vowing to press for police reforms to show they have a more sophisticated way to control working people here.

Candidate Christine Quinn has shifted away from her previous strong backing for Kelly — whom President Barack Obama had considered appointing as head of the Department of Homeland Security — and said stop and frisk has "gotten out of hand." The other Democratic front-runner, Bill de Blasio, has pledged to fire the police chief.

## Free the Cuban Five! 15 years since arrest and frame-up

Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who were gathering information on Cuban-American paramilitary groups with a long record of deadly attacks against Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution. They were arrested by the FBI on Sept. 12, 1998, framed up, and convicted on charges ranging from acting as unregistered agents for Cuba to "conspiracy" to commit espionage.

### Minneapolis

"I Will Die the Way I Lived," 15 watercolors by Cuban Five prisoner Antonio Guerrero, one for each year in prison. Sept. 1-30, M-F 8am - 6pm, S-S 10am - 2pm. Reception: Thurs., Sept. 12, 6 p.m. Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. Sponsored by Minnesota Cuba Committee and Obsidian Arts. For more information call 612-367-6134 or 612-787-3644.

### New York City

Presentation of the book "What Lies Across the Water" by author Stephen Kimber; update on the case of the Five by attorney Martin Garbus; exhibit of "I Will Die the Way I Lived," 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero. Sun., Sept. 15, 5 p.m. Cuban Art Space, 231 West 29th St., 4th Floor. Organized by the Center for Cuban Studies and the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. RSVP 212-242-0559.

Picket line to "Free the Cuban 5! Protest 15 years of Unjust Incarceration!" Thurs., Sept. 12, 5 p.m. at 26 Federal Plaza. Take 4, 5 or 6 train to Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall. Initiated by The Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5. For more info call 718-601-4751.

### Washington, D.C.

Vigil to Free the Cuban 5. Thurs., Sept. 12 in front of the White House starting at 12 noon. Sponsored by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. For more information: www.thecuban5.org

# Chinese communities around world discussed at in

BY PATRICK BROWN  
AND LINDA HARRIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — This Southeast Asian nation was a fitting place to hold the eighth International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO) Aug. 17-18. Out of a population of close to 30 million, Malaysia is home to 6.5 million people of Chinese ancestry, more than 20 percent of the total.

The conference was organized in collaboration with students and teachers at the Institute of Chinese Studies and other departments at the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), a university in Kuala Lumpur named after Malaysia's first post-independence prime minister. The successful event attracted some 200 people from 20 countries. With 50 panel discussions and plenary sessions over two days, participants delved into various aspects of the centuries-old settlement of Chinese migrants in virtually every country of the globe.

ISSCO was established at a 1992 conference in San Francisco sponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Since then international conferences, held every three years, have been organized in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Taiwan, Denmark, China, and Singapore. In between there have been regional conferences in Cuba, South Africa, New Zealand, and several other countries.

For the first time at ISSCO gatherings, a majority of papers this year — more than 100 of the total 167 — were presented in Chinese. Most of the rest were in English, but nine were presented in Malay, another first. While numerous students and teachers from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) took part, the largest number came from universities in Malaysia. Others traveled from near-neighbors Indonesia and Singapore, as well as the Philippines, Japan, Canada, the United States, Europe, South Africa and Australia. Conference organizers were especially pleased with the larger numbers of students presenting papers at this year's event. Welcoming the participants, a representative of Malaysia's deputy minister of education Mary Yap Kain Ching noted the role of Chinese laborers, whether indentured or "free," in building railroads and working the country's tin mines under British colonial rule in the 19th century.



ISSCO founders Ling-chi Wang and Wang Gungwu. Ling-chi Wang spoke about scientific achievements of Chinese in U.S. in face of 160 years of prejudice. Wang Gungwu discussed Britain's efforts to pit Malays against Chinese during Malaya's independence fight. "Malaysia is a good place to understand questions" facing overseas Chinese in many countries, he said.

Introducing the keynote speakers at the same session, ISSCO's founding president Wang Gungwu of the National University at Singapore spoke of his experiences growing up in Ipoh, the capital of Perak, one of a number of federated states during British colonialism that are now part of Malaysia. Modern Malaysia was consolidated under that name and in its present form in 1965 when Singapore, which had joined the federation two years earlier, withdrew and became a separate nation. Sabah and Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo (Indonesian Kalimantan) also joined the federation in 1963 and remain part of Malaysia today.

### Independence struggle

Wang Gungwu recalled the invasion by Japanese forces in December 1941, in the days following the attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Within a few weeks the British colonial masters of what was then called Malaya were expelled as the Japanese army swept south. When the tide of war turned and the Japanese troops were defeated in 1945, however, that did not usher in Malayan independence, as many had expected. Instead, a new period of British domination and war began.

Throughout the 1940s a growing movement for national independence took shape, with labor actions, popular protests and military actions led by the Malayan Communist Party.

In response to this growing political and military threat to their rule, British generals herded half a million poor farmers and farmworkers, most of whom were Chinese, into so-called New Villages — later used as a model for the "strategic hamlets" established by U.S. forces in Vietnam in the 1960s. Recalling the independence struggle in Malaya and its long-lasting aftermath, Wang Gungwu said he had "lived through times where every Chinese was considered a communist."

By 1952 more than 32,000 troops — from the United Kingdom, Australia



Part of audience at the opening session of the eighth International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO) that took place Aug. 17-18 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

and New Zealand, as well as from other British-dominated regions of Asia and Africa — were battling the independence movement in Malaya.

The imperialists crushed the armed insurgency, but were forced to concede independence in 1957. Their legacy of divide and rule — pitting the indigenous Malay population against Chinese and Indian communities — has deeply marked Malaysian government policies ever since.

"Malaysia is a very good place to understand the questions" facing overseas Chinese in many countries, concluded Wang Gungwu as he introduced the two keynote speakers, Leo Suryadinata and Ling-chi Wang.

Suryadinata, director of the Chinese Heritage Center of Singapore and outgoing president of ISSCO, spoke in Chinese on "Reflections on Chinese Migrants and Their Descendants in the Modern and Contemporary Eras." In the following presentation in English, "Chinese Americans in Science and Technology since World War II," Ling-chi Wang — retired professor of Asian American and ethnic studies at the University of California at Berkeley and, along with Wang Gungwu, the principal initiator of ISSCO — reviewed his research on the contributions of Chinese-born scientists and engineers and the discrimination they continue to face.

### Rich history and culture

The rich cultural, economic and political history of the Malay Peninsula was touched on in numerous panels, especially those conducted in Chinese and Malay. At one session Tan Ai Boay of the University of Malaya spoke on "Chinese Citizenship in British Malaya before World War II." Since the British at the time had divided the territory into the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, and Unfederated Malay States, she said, Chinese residents seeking citizenship had to contend with both colonial officials and the sultans who headed most states in the country, as they still do today.

At another session, Aloysius Yapp and Anita Abas spoke of the struggle for recognition by the Sino-Iban, descendants of Chinese who had intermarried with the indigenous people of Sarawak. Speakers from the Philippines de-

scribed their efforts to encourage young Tsinoyos, or Chinese-Filipinos, to learn Chinese. Since English and Tagalog are the official languages of education, "we are working to preserve culture so we don't forget," said Lily Rose Tope from the University of the Philippines. Chinese make up 1.5 percent of the country's population of more than 100 million. Tope stressed that Tsinoyos are not a single, undifferentiated group but are divided along class lines. At a session on "Chinese in Africa and Java," the University of Pretoria's Karen Harris discussed a struggle waged by the Chinese in South Africa. In 2008, 17 years after the official abolition of apartheid, the High Court finally "corrected an historical wrong," Harris said, ruling that Chinese are "Black." The decision, she noted, is a belated recognition that, like Africans, Indians, and other oppressed nationalities the Chinese were included as "non-whites" under the hated racist system and still suffer under its legacy. Before the court's decision, Chinese were ineligible for affirmative action measures under South Africa's current "equity" laws.

In his keynote address the opening day of the conference, Ling-chi Wang had spoken about the discrimination faced today by Chinese in the United States. He pointed to the record of more than 160 years of racist attitudes toward Chinese there.

Wang cited an 1854 decision by California's Supreme Court overturning the admissibility of evidence brought against "a free white citizen of this State" who had been "convicted of murder upon the testimony of Chinese witnesses." The judges ruled that "a race of people whom nature has marked as inferior, and who are incapable of progress or intellectual development beyond a certain point," should not have "the right to swear away the life of a citizen" or "the privilege of participating with us in administering the affairs of our Government."

Increasing restrictions on the Chinese, especially in California, were enacted in the decades following the 1854 ruling. These included limitations on immigration, business activities, areas where they were allowed to live, and rights to work and own property. In 1882, almost a decade into a deep nationwide post-Civil War economic de-

# Int'l conference in Malaysia

pression, the U.S. Congress adopted the Chinese Exclusion Act, halting all immigration from China for 10 years. That bar was subsequently extended indefinitely, made still more stringent, and expanded to include immigration from Hawaii and the Philippines. It remained in force until 1943.

That experience of Chinese immigrants in the U.S., and the origins of anti-Chinese agitation and government policies there, were later the topic of a lively discussion and debate at a panel on "Chinese in the Americas." Among some 20 participants were three guests from the Cuban Embassy in Malaysia: Ambassador Rubén Pérez; Cultural and Administrative Affairs Officer Ileana García; and Third Secretary Yanila Reyes.

In his closing address to the ISSCO gathering, conference convener and UTAR professor Ho Khai Leong noted the breadth of questions addressed in the different sessions. He pointed to "the situation of the Sino-Iban people of Sarawak and the question of the Chinese in Cuba," which was addressed in the panel on "Chinese in the Americas," as experiences "not often discussed in Southeast Asia" and about which he had learned a great deal.

He also saluted the UTAR students and staff who had helped to organize and run the conference. Their friendly efficiency, esprit de corps and interest in the sessions were evident to all participants.

At an ISSCO membership meeting held at the conference's conclusion,



ISSCO

Some 50 panels took up aspects of centuries-old Chinese migration. From left, Nahoko Tate, Junichi Shibano, Tomoko Ishikawa discuss "Survival Strategies of Chinese Schools in Japan."

Tan Chee Beng of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was elected the association's new president. Outgoing President Leo Suryadinata announced that Panama will be the venue for a regional ISSCO conference in 2014, to be followed in 2015 by a regional gathering in Seoul, South Korea. The next international conference will be held at the University of British Columbia in Canada in 2016.

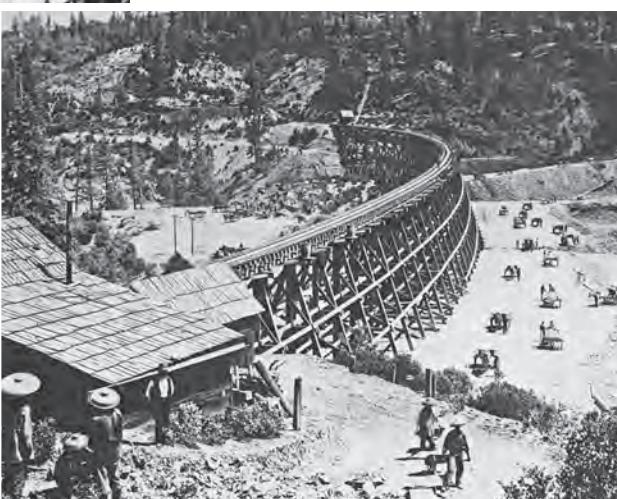
Baskaran Appu and Mary-Alice Waters contributed to this article.

## Panel debates fight against anti-Chinese racism in US vs. Cuba



Bohemia

Unlike in U.S., "Cuba has eliminated capitalism, the foundation on which the superexploitation of Chinese is based," said Mary-Alice Waters at panel on "Chinese in the Americas." That made it possible there to wage the struggle to eliminate discrimination and prejudice based on skin color. Left, banner says "Resident Chinese support the Cuban Revolution and its leader Fidel Castro" at Havana rally, Sept. 2, 1960. Below, Chinese workers in U.S. building transcontinental railroad in 1860s. Thousands later emigrated from United States to Cuba.



BY PATRICK BROWN

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The origins in the United States of anti-Chinese discrimination, violence, and government policy, and the place of Chinese-Americans in the U.S. class struggle, became the focus of a discussion and debate at a panel on "Chinese in the Americas" during a conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas held here Aug. 17-18.

Much of the discussion during the panel centered on a turbulent and pivotal three decades in U.S. history that included the 1848-58 California gold rush, the 1861-65 Civil War, the post-war Radical Reconstruction governments across the states of the defeated slavocracy and, by 1877, the bloody crushing of those popular democratic regimes.

This history was contrasted with the revolutionary struggle for independence from Spain and for the abolition of slavery and all forms of indentured servitude. The place of Chinese immigrant workers in the class struggle in both countries was highlighted.

The event was chaired by ISSCO board member Khun Eng Kuah-Pearce. Leading off the five panelists was Setsuko Sonoda from Kobe Women's University in Japan. Sonoda spoke about the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Associations formed in San Francisco and other cities to defend Chinese who were victimized under the federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which initially halted all immigration from China for 10 years and ended up

being extended all the way to World War II. Similar associations were formed in Canada, Peru and Cuba, she said.

Chuime Ho and Bennet Bronson, both from the Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee, presented information on the history of Chinese women in Northwestern United States and Canada from 1860 to 1920. They highlighted the women's resistance to both their oppression as a sex and to anti-Chinese racism.

The other two panelists presented sharply different views of the class forces behind the drive in 19th-century California to scapegoat and exclude immigrants from China.

### Anti-Chinese agitation in California

Cao Yu, from Jinan University in China's Shandong province, presented a paper on "Engagement and Conflict: A Comparative Study of Chinese and Irish Immigrants in California 1848-1882." Facing severe discrimination on grounds of race or religion, he said, working people in the U.S. who had emigrated from Ireland and from China ended up in competition and conflict.

Yu focused on the role of the Workingmen's Party of California under the leadership of Denis Kearney. During the post-Civil War economic crisis, the party scapegoated the Chinese in competition for jobs in California, pitting Irish-born workers against Chinese immigrants in particular.

Yu said the Workingmen's Party and the Irish workers who supported it were the primary source of the violent racism faced by the Chinese. The "labor movement," he said, "jeopardized Chinese immigration," with the "most severe impact" often coming from "the bottom of society and the left-wing movement."

In his written paper distributed to conference participants, Yu advised Chinese "to try to prevent the labor force and left-wing parties" from "taking power." He called for an "alliance with other possible parties and capitalists," with the aim of preventing "the left-wing parties from becoming the majority of parliament."

### Cuba and the U.S.

In her presentation on "The Struggle Against Anti-Chinese Racism in Cuba and the United States, 1865 to Today," Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, presented views that were the polar opposite — in class terms — to Cao Yu's. Waters is the editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press in 2005.

Roughly equal numbers of Chinese arrived in the United States and Cuba

between 1846 and 1875, Waters noted. They came to California searching for gold, and later as contract labor to build the transcontinental railroad. Meanwhile, Chinese were shipped to Cuba to work as indentured labor on the sugarcane plantations.

During that quarter century, Waters said, "both Cuba and the United States were swept by deep-going revolutionary struggles" in which the abolition of slavery and involuntary servitude were settled in blood. In Cuba, Chinese indentured laborers by the thousands joined the armies fighting for independence from Spain and for an end to all bonded labor. In the United States, however, the workers who had emigrated from China were far from the political and military battlefields of the 1861-65 Civil War.

"In both countries, the rising capitalist class, together with plebeian and middle-class forces, eventually emerged victorious," Waters said. "But the differences in the social and political weight of Chinese workers in the two countries deeply marked their future histories."

In contrast to their counterparts in Cuba, then the largest sugar producer in the world, Chinese immigrants in the United States were not concentrated at the center of production for the world market, and did not have the opportunity to be at the center of the revolutionary struggles.

Waters noted one exception. In Louisiana and Mississippi of the immediate post-Civil War years, the defeated slavocracy imported several thousand Chinese workers from Cuba, hoping they would be a "docile" replacement for their former slaves.

Things turned out differently, said Waters. Not only had these workers "already experienced the hated contract labor system in Cuba, they had been infected by the revolutionary struggles beginning there," she said. "Many joined forces with the freed slaves, poor farmers, and other toilers in the Mississippi Delta," participating in the armed militias that confronted the rising counterrevolutionary terror of the planters' White Knights and other armed squads.

It was precisely this kind of unity that  
Continued on page 10

# Debate on anti-Chinese racism

Continued from page 9

"the northern industrial capitalist victors in the Civil War feared," Waters said. "That's the historical political and economic context in which we have to place the rise of organized anti-Chinese bigotry and violence in California and the adoption of the federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882."

While many workers were drawn into the anti-Chinese bigotry, Waters noted, "The Workingmen's Party of California ... was not a working-class organization. It was tied to the Democratic Party that led the bourgeois opposition to the revolutionary war that brought down the slavocracy. Its central leader was a small businessman.

"Anti-Chinese racism served the interests of the nascent financial capitalist class. It was not in the interests of the working class; it was a blow to workers' solidarity; it weakened and divided the labor movement, and set back independent working-class political action and organization," she emphasized.

## Cuban Revolution's example

Waters opened and concluded her remarks by contrasting the absence of discrimination and prejudice today against Cubans of Chinese descent with the racism Chinese and their descendants face in the United States and other countries where they have settled. She pointed to the reasons why this has become possible over the more than half century since the triumph of the 1959 revolution there.

"There is no 'glass ceiling' in Cuba,

nor are there special Chinese occupations," she stressed. "Chinatowns have basically disappeared in Havana and other cities, because there is no longer any need for those of Chinese ancestry to concentrate together for protection or in order to make a living."

In the discussion period, conference convener Ho Khai Leong — a professor at Kuala Lumpur's Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, members of whose faculty and student body collaborated with ISSCO to organize the gathering — asked Waters a question. What did she consider the "unique element in the political ideology in Cuba that actually makes discrimination against the Chinese completely absent in its policies," Leong said. "Are we [also] talking about complete absence of discrimination against other ethnic groups in Cuba?"

Waters recalled that in 1999, at a regional conference of the Overseas Chinese association in Havana, Wang Gungwu, founding president of ISSCO, had asked a similar question of Moisés Sío Wong. Sío Wong, Waters explained, was "a general of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, both of whose parents were Chinese." He was one of the authors of *Our History Is Still Being Written*.



ISSCO photos  
Anti-Chinese racism in United States served interests of rising capitalist class, not workers, whose solidarity it undercut, said Mary-Alice Waters (top) of Pathfinder Press at panel on "Chinese in the Americas." Cao Yu of Jinan University (top, right) presented opposite view that danger to Chinese immigrants comes from labor and "left-wing movement." During discussion, Ho Khai Leong (right), a conference organizer, asked Waters what it is about Cuban Revolution that led her to point to the absence of anti-Chinese discrimination in Cuba today.



Sio Wong had answered Wang Gungwu by first noting the important place of Chinese in Cuba's revolutionary struggles going back to the independence wars from Spain of the latter 19th century. But that's not "the most fundamental answer," he had said. "Because before the revolution of 1959, Chinese were still discriminated

against in Cuba."

The difference in Cuba, Sio Wong noted, is what has happened *since* the revolution. "Here a socialist revolution took place."

"Cuba has eliminated capitalism, the economic foundations on which the superexploitation of Chinese is based," Waters said. "And that has made it possible to wage the kind of struggle that has been fought there to eliminate discrimination and prejudice based on the color of a person's skin."

"Enormous strides have been made in Cuba," Waters said, "but history has shown that it was easier to eliminate prejudice against Cubans of Chinese descent than Cubans who are black. That's still an ongoing battle."

Cuba's ambassador to Malaysia, Rubén Pérez, who was in the audience together with two others from the Cuban Embassy, joined the discussion at the end of the session. "In my country," he noted, "There are no people of only one race.

"It's very important to take this into account," Pérez emphasized. In Cuba, "your ancestors can come from Africa, from the Middle East, from Europe, or from China. To rationalize discrimination in Cuba means justifying discrimination against ourselves!"

## Our History Is Still Being Written

THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

ARMANDO CHOY, GUSTAVO CHUI, MOISÉS SÍO WONG



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# Hands off Syria! says socialist candidate

Continued from front page

on by Washington and its allies as a rationalization to advance their class interests in Syria and throughout the region.

The capitalist rulers of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and other imperialist powers are the deadly enemy of working people at home and abroad. For decades they have intervened repeatedly in the Middle East and North Africa seeking to keep workers and farmers from gaining control of the patrimony of their lands, to reap the profits flowing from oil in the region, and to impose stability for the capitalist world order.

The beginning of a new rise of popular struggles since late 2010, signaled by what is called the Arab Spring in Tunisia, Egypt and beyond, is creating big problems for imperialism and for the propertied landlords, capitalists, and officer corps in that part of the world. The rebellions are a response to intolerable conditions confronting working people in face of today's worldwide economic crisis and decades of despotic rule by regimes like those of Mubarak in Egypt, Assad and others.



Dan Fein, SWP candidate for NY mayor, in Tahrir Square, April 2011. Fein also made trip in solidarity with Egyptian workers in July this year after ouster of Islamist regime.

The civil war in Syria grew out of bloody repression against spreading anti-government protests that began in early 2011.

Workers and farmers in Syria face many obstacles, from the murderous Assad regime to anti-working-class Islamist groups, including some allied to al-Qaeda. As they fight to stem the slaughter on all fronts and throw off the Assad regime, the last thing Syrian working people need is military intervention by imperialist forces.

If Washington hits Syria with its bombs and missiles, the consequences will be grave for workers and farmers across the region. Already the war has spilled over into Lebanon and Jordan, where there are hundreds of thousands of refugees, to the Kurdish areas in Syria and nearby, to workers and farmers in Turkey, Israel and Palestine and throughout the Middle East.

The self-serving protests by President Barack Obama and other imperialist spokespersons against the slaughter of innocents by the use of poison gas flies in the face of the decades of indiscriminate murder inflicted on workers and farmers worldwide by U.S. imperialism, from fire bombing of working-class neighborhoods across Germany and Japan in World War II to the massive bombardment and use of napalm in the wars against the people of Korea and Vietnam. The U.S. rulers are the only ones in the world to have ever used nuclear weapons, dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

And Washington maintains thousands of tons of chemical weapons, the second largest stockpile in the world.

The U.S. bosses are pushing a relentless assault on the jobs, wages, working conditions and political and social rights of workers here bred by the deepening crisis of their capitalist system of production and trade.

Working people here have common class interests with working people in Syria in opposing imperialist intervention.

U.S. hands off Syria!

## 1963 march reflected fight against Jim Crow

Continued from page 2

it very closely themselves and were exhilarated by the record-breaking turnout. It was also a source of great encouragement to those whites who are dependable allies of the Negroes, and who constituted about ten per cent of the marchers.

The march dramatized the readiness of the Negro masses to struggle, to go all the way in the fight. It also pointed up what the Negro people could do if they had leaders of the same mettle.

### From the speech John Lewis was prevented from delivering

We are now involved in a serious revolution. This nation is still a place of cheap political leaders who build their careers on immoral compromises and ally themselves with open forms of political, economic and social exploitation. What political leader here can stand up and say "My party is the party of principles"? The party of Kennedy is also the party of Eastland. The party of Javits is also the party of Goldwater. Where is our party? ...

The revolution is a serious one. Mr. Kennedy is trying to take the revolution out of the street and put it in the courts. Listen Mr. Kennedy, Listen Mr. Congressmen, Listen fellow citizens, the black masses are on the march for jobs and freedom, and we must say to the politicians that there won't be a "cooling-off" period.

All of us must get in the revolution. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and every hamlet of this nation, until true freedom comes, until the revolution is complete. In the Delta of Mississippi, in southwest Georgia, in Alabama, Harlem, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and all over this nation. The black masses are on the march!

We won't stop now. All of the forces of Eastland, Barnett, Wallace, and Thurmond won't stop this revolution. The time will come when we will not confine our marching to Washington. We will march through

the South, through the Heart of Dixie, the way Sherman did. We shall pursue our own "scorched earth" policy and burn Jim Crow to the ground — non-violently. We shall fragment the South into a thousand pieces and put them back together in the image of democracy. We will make the action of the past few months look petty. And I say to you, WAKE UP AMERICA!

## Protests force arrest of killer cop in Toronto

Continued from front page

fires nine shots through the front door entrance at Yatim. Another video taken from a nearby security store camera released to the public shows Yatim crumpling to the floor after the first three bullets are fired, his legs still moving. About seven seconds later Forcillo fires six more rounds at Yatim, definitively ending his life.

Charges were laid by Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, a provincial civilian body set up to investigate deaths involving police. Forcillo is the third Ontario cop to be charged with murder in the 23-year history of the SIU. After turning himself in, Forcillo was released on \$510,000 bail Aug. 20.

The charges came a week after the second of two demonstrations here organized by the Yatim family and supporters.

The march of several hundred to the Metropolitan Toronto Police Headquarters Aug. 13 was led by Sarah Yatim, sister of Sammy Yatim, and family friends from the back of a pickup truck. They shouted slogans that included "charge the police with murder."

"The cop who killed my brother is getting paid right now. That cop should go to jail," Sarah Yatim told the demonstrators. "My brother was one of many teenagers like him. He didn't deserve to die."

Participants included families and friends of other victims of cop killings as well as activists with the

## Washington threatens missile strike on Syria

BY SUSAN LAMONT

In the wake of an Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack killing hundreds of civilians in a rebel-held Damascus neighborhood, President Barack Obama's administration — along with London and Paris — is seeking to build support to launch a military assault on the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Doctors Without Borders, which operates hospitals in the few Damascus suburbs the Assad regime does not control, reported that these facilities had treated 3,600 victims of poison gas, 355 of whom died. Assad claims the Syrian opposition forces fighting to oust him carried out the attack to discredit his government.

The civil war in Syria, which began in early 2011, is a conflict between the armed forces of Assad's brutal regime and those of a disparate bourgeois opposition, which includes Islamist jihadist groups. The devastating war is taking a mounting toll on working people in Syria, with widening ramifications in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere in the region. More than 100,000 Syrians have been killed in the war. Hundreds of thousands have been made refugees, most forced to flee into neighboring countries.

Since the Aug. 21 attack, Obama administration officials have pushed toward a U.S. military strike against Syria, hinting at cruise missile attacks on selected targets. "We are ready to go," Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel told the media, referring to four U.S. destroyers currently deployed in the eastern Mediterranean, as well as multiple warplanes.

Many reporters and commentators cited Obama's statement last year that "a red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized" by the Syrian government. Up to now, however, Washington has not taken direct military action against the Syrian regime, despite earlier reports of chemical weapons' use by Assad's forces.

The British government of Prime Minister David Cameron, which is also calling for a military response, has indicated it will wait for a report by the United Nations team dispatched to Syria to investigate the Aug. 21 attack before taking action. U.N. officials said the report would be submitted the last weekend in August.

Obama administration officials told the *New York Times* Aug. 29 that it hasn't backed off moving ahead with a strike on Syria, even without British support and endorsement by the U.N. Security Council.

Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin, who backs Assad, announced Aug. 29 that Russia was sending two warships to the eastern Mediterranean.

### 'Militant' publishing schedule

This is a two-week issue of the paper. The next issue will be mailed out on Sept. 12.